a truss having a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces and a flexible strip of [deformable] plastic material [defining at least in part said pair of spaced apart end surfaces] which end surfaces, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to said truss including a resilient member [with said resilient member positioned adjacent a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material]; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces, [there being a] said flexible strip of deformable material being at least in part between exposed surfaces of any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member.

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21. (Thrice amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces terminated by end edges at opposite ends of said truss and a flexible strip of deformable material defining, at least in part, said pair of spaced apart end surfaces which end surfaces, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to a resilient member included therein with said resilient member having opposite ends thereof each ending short of said end edges; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against the said restoring forces, said resilient member being [deformably] secured to

a first side of said flexible strip of deformable material positioned between exposed surfaces of any outer wall tissues engaged by said engagement means and said resilient member.

32. (Amended) A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a resilient member therein and having a pair of spaced apart end surfaces with an intermediate segment therebetween which truss, if said end surfaces are forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, has restoring forces resulting therein tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces, said resilient member being in contact with an adhesive at a surface thereof oriented at least in part as are said end surfaces of said truss; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues adjacent thereto sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces and to hold said truss substantially conformed about said outer wall tissues but without at least a substantial portion of said intermediate segment being so engaged with said outer wall tissues adjacent thereto when concurrently in contact therewith.

Please add the following claims:

39. The nasal dilator of claim 2 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

40. The nasal dilator of claim 3 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

41. The nasal dilator of claim 16 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

42. The nasal dilator of claim 21 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

43. The nasal dilator of claim 23 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

44. The nasal dilator of claim 28 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

45. The nasal dilator of claim 32 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.

46. The nasal dilator of claim 36 wherein said truss is of plastic construction..

47. A nasal dilator capable of introducing separating stresses in outer wall tissues of a user's nose, said dilator comprising:

a truss having a flexible strip of plastic material and a pair of spaced-apart end surfaces which end surfaces, if forced toward one another from initial positions to substantially reduce direct spacing therebetween by a spacing reduction force external to said truss, results in restoring forces in said truss tending to restore said direct spacing between said end surfaces due to said truss including a resilient member; and

engagement means adhered to said end surfaces and capable of engaging exposed surfaces of such outer wall tissues sufficiently to remain so engaged against said restoring forces.

48. The nasal dilator of claim 47 wherein said truss is of plastic construction.